

In a Boston Herald article dated July 29, 2011, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Commissioner Ken Kimmell pledged that “when selecting members for the unpaid committee [the DEP and Department of Public Health panel studying health effects of wind turbines], DEP was careful to choose no one with affiliations on either side of the wind energy debate.” The backgrounds of two panel members below certainly suggest at least two committee members are staunchly pro wind.

James F. Manwell, Ph.D.

Dr. James F. Manwell, is, without doubt, one of the most recognized pro wind academicians in the United States. He is a member of the faculty of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst (and therefore is an employee of the Commonwealth).

<http://www.umass.edu/windenergy/partner.cooperative.php>
http://www.ceere.org/rerl/team/manwell_j.html

Additionally, 98 percent of the Wind Center’s total income in the Fiscal Year ending June 30 2008 came from state funds according to Ben Storrow writing in the Hampshire Gazette.

<http://www.gazettenet.com/2010/08/04/umass-wind-center-loses-state-funding>

Too, according to Wind Center staff, in FY 2008, \$873,000 of this funding came from the state’s Renewable Energy Trust (RET) and the remainder from the Department of Energy Resources and the Division of Capital Asset Management. (The RET is funded by a surcharge on commercial and residential utility bills.)

For the fiscal year ending June 2009 the state funding of the Center was as much as \$1.2 million.

Dr. Manwell is also the Director of the Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (RERL) at UMass. As noted above this lab is affiliated with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. As documented in the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and RET web site, the UMass RERL has performed at least 42 feasibility studies of potential wind projects in Massachusetts. And several turbines have been installed as a direct result of Dr Manwell’s effort.. Of the 42 feasibility studies conducted by Dr Manwell’s office, all but a small fraction were endorsed by his work.

Although there are at least 50 residents who today suffer from noise and health effects from turbines operating in Falmouth, Ma, there was no indication in the Dr Manwell’s feasibility study that such effects would occur. Quotations from the RERL’s preliminary site assessment of the Falmouth project predicted that noise was not considered to be problematic. “The site is removed from the more thickly settled areas of the town.” “Noise: Massachusetts state law does not allow a rise of greater than 10 dB above existing background levels at a property boundary (Massachusetts Air Pollution Control Regulations, Regulation 310 CMR 7.10), due to new activities at the site. This sound level is unlikely to be reached in any case at any of the sites we examined. Furthermore, any eventual turbine will most likely be inaudible or minimally audible at the nearest residences.”

http://www.masstech.org/Project%20Deliverables/Comm_Wind/Falmouth/Falmouth_Preliminary_Site_Analysis.pdf. Dr Manwell’s prediction was plainly wrong.

Dr. Manwell’s research has been, and remains, the product of funding from the State of Mass. This funding, in turn, has clearly been directed toward to development and establishment of wind energy in our state. The promotion of wind power in Massachusetts therefore is in the pecuniary interests of Dr. Manwell’s research activities and renders his participation in the (supposed unbiased) committee in collision with common sense.

Dora Ann Mills, MD, MPH, FAAP

Dr. Mills has publicly supported at least one major wind turbine project. This support was based in part on an incomplete review of the available science and a worrisome adoption of legacy pro wind positions. Her reference to WHO data and other science has been of questionable accuracy.

Mills Report - Wind Turbines Neuro-Acoustical Issues, June, 2009

<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/wind-turbines-neuro-acoustical.shtml>

<http://windfarmrealities.org/wfr-docs/index.php>

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